

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Sub B27  
1. ~~(Amend)~~ An apparatus for matching a configuration of a first station of a local area network to a configuration of a second station of the local area network, comprising:

detecting means for detecting [the] an advertised configuration [of] capability that indicates a capability in which the second station is capable of operating;

comparing means for comparing the detected advertised configuration capability of the second station to [the] a configuration [of] in which the first station is capable of operating;

configuration capability advertising means for advertising, to the second station, a configuration capability of the first station;

advertised configuration capability changing means for changing the advertised configuration capability of the first station when the comparison yields a first result; and

A2  
waiting means for waiting for the advertised configuration capability of the second station to change when the comparison yields a second result.

Please add the following new claims:

Sub B27  
A3  
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the advertised configuration capability of the second station is encoded by the second station into a first configuration capability datum transmitted from the second station to the first station, wherein the detecting means detects the configuration capability of the second station from the first configuration capability datum.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the configuration capability advertising means encodes the configuration capability of the first station into a second configuration datum for transmission to the second station.

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4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first <sup>Protocol</sup> ~~configuration~~ datum is transmitted from the second station to the first station within a burst of fast link pulses.